

Focus Area 16: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

Objective 16-4 targets the reduction in maternal deaths due to obstetric causes to a rate of 3.3 per 100,000 live births.

A total of 58 maternal deaths were reported for 2000, at a rate of 10.9 per 100,000 live births based on data extracted from the Birth and Death Statistical Master File (Figure 16-4, Table 16-4). For 2001, a total of 51 maternal deaths were reported at a rate of 9.7 per 100,000 live births; for 2002, a total of 53 maternal deaths were reported at a rate of 10.0 per 100,000 live births; and for 2003, a total of 79 maternal deaths were reported at a rate of 14.6 per 100,000 live births. California's maternal death rates due to obstetric causes were significantly higher than the target established in HP2010, and increased significantly between 2002 and 2003.

Data by race-ethnicity of the mother show that the highest reliable maternal death rates were for Hispanic women (10.5 per 100,000 live births in 2000, 9.2 in 2001, 8.0 in 2002, and 14.5 in 2003) and for White women (12.9 per 100,000 live births in 2003). These death rates remain significantly higher than the HP2010 target. Maternal death rates for American Indians/Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI), and the "Multirace" populations were zero based on no reported deaths (with the exception of one NHOPI death reported in 2000 and one "Multirace" death in 2003). Unreliable maternal death rates due to a small number of events were also found for African American/Black and Asian women, and are not reported here.

Examined by age of mother, the only reliable maternal death rates occurred for women aged 35 years and over (26.3 per 100,000 live births in 2002, and 34.9 in 2003). These rates were eight to ten times greater than the HP2010 objective of 3.3 per 100,000 live births. No deaths were reported among mothers aged 15 years and under across all years 2000-2003. Maternal death rates for all other age groupings examined were unreliable due to the small number of events and are not reported here.

For more information on maternal deaths in California, visit the Maternal and Child Health Branch Web site at:

<http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 16-4, please visit:

http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/16MICH.htm#_Toc494699661

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od16.htm#maternaldeaths>

Figure 16-4
Maternal Death Rates
California, 2000-2003

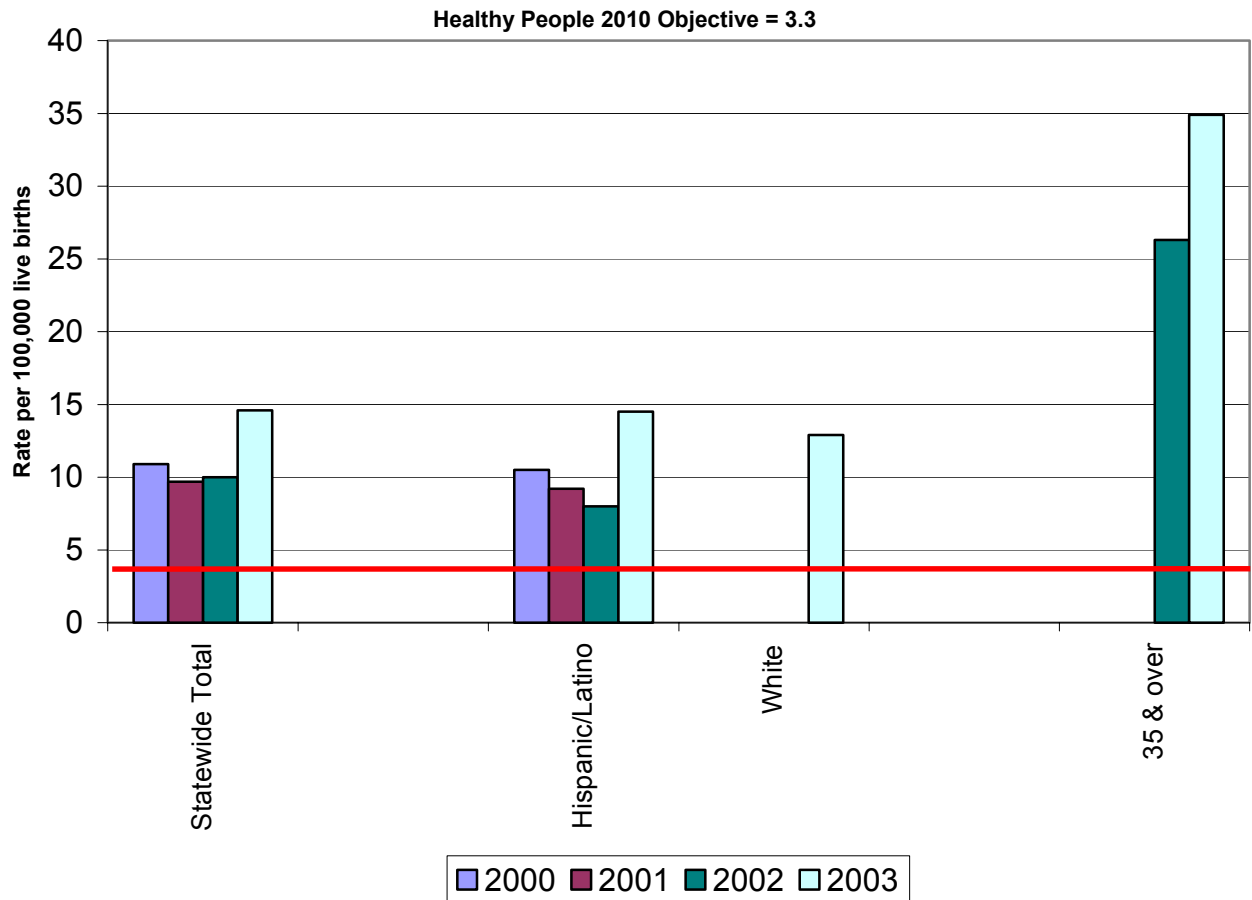


Table 16-4
Maternal Deaths and Death Rates
California, 2000-2003

Maternal Death Rates*	2000				2001			
	N	Rate ¹	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.	N	Rate ¹	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Objective 16-4	3.3				3.3			
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	58	10.9	8.1	13.7	51	9.7	7.0	12.3
Race-Ethnicity of Mother								
African American/Black	10	DSU	-----	-----	9	DSU	-----	-----
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	5	DSU	-----	-----	4	DSU	-----	-----
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	DSU	-----	-----	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic/Latino	27	10.5	6.5	14.4	24	9.2	5.5	12.9
White	15	DSU	-----	-----	14	DSU	-----	-----
Multirace	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Age of Mother								
Under 15	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15 - 19	2	DSU	-----	-----	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20 - 24	13	DSU	-----	-----	8	DSU	-----	-----
25 - 29	11	DSU	-----	-----	15	DSU	-----	-----
30 - 34	14	DSU	-----	-----	15	DSU	-----	-----
35 and over	18	DSU	-----	-----	13	DSU	-----	-----

Maternal Death Rates*	2002				2003			
	N	Rate ¹	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.	N	Rate ¹	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Objective 16-4	3.3				3.3			
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	53	10.0	7.3	12.7	79	14.6	11.4	17.8
Race-Ethnicity of Mother								
African American/Black	8	DSU	-----	-----	12	DSU	-----	-----
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	6	DSU	-----	-----	6	DSU	-----	-----
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic/Latino	21	8.0	4.6	11.4	39	14.5	9.9	19.0
White	18	DSU	-----	-----	21	12.9	7.4	18.4
Multirace	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	DSU	-----	-----
Age of Mother								
Under 15	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15 - 19	5	DSU	-----	-----	4	DSU	-----	-----
20 - 24	7	DSU	-----	-----	15	DSU	-----	-----
25 - 29	8	DSU	-----	-----	15	DSU	-----	-----
30 - 34	10	DSU	-----	-----	13	DSU	-----	-----
35 and over	23	26.3	15.5	37.0	32	34.9	22.8	47.1

SOURCES: California Department of Health Services, Death and Birth Statistical Master Files, 2000-2003.

NOTES: * Maternal deaths due to obstetric causes are defined by ICD-10 codes O00-O95, O98-O99.

¹ Rate per 100,000 live births

DSU Data Statistically Unreliable due to small number of events.